



Biography

John A. Dietrich **Dispute Resolution Officer and Administrative Judge**

Administrative Judge Dietrich joined the Office of Dispute Resolution for Acquisition (ODRA) in January 2009. The ODRA has jurisdiction over protests and contract disputes arising under the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Acquisition Management System. The ODRA strongly encourages the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes to resolve cases, while also retaining the statutory authority to adjudicate matters if voluntary resolution cannot be achieved.

Prior to joining the ODRA, Mr. Dietrich worked in the Department of the Navy's (DON) Office of the General Counsel for over twenty years. He began his DON career at the Naval Supply Systems Command as a summer law clerk and later an assistant counsel working on protests before the General Services Board of Contract Appeals and the General Accounting Office. He joined the Navy Litigation Office in 1990, and in 1996, became a Senior Trial Attorney. While at the Navy Litigation Office, Mr. Dietrich represented the DON before various U.S. District Courts, Courts of Appeals, and the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals. He served as lead and co-counsel in EEO class actions, contract appeals, and environmental cases. Most recently, he served as the Assistant General Counsel (Alternative Dispute Resolution). In that capacity he drafted and implemented DON ADR policies, led the ADR Program Office, and served as the agency's Dispute Resolution Specialist, a position mandated by the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996. During his tenure with the DON ADR Program, the DON received ADR awards from both the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Federal Procurement Policy. While with the DON, he received the DON Superior Civilian Service Award once, the Meritorious Civilian Service Award twice, and Navy Litigation Office's annual Edward Connolly Award for Excellence in the field of litigation.

Mr. Dietrich's bachelor's degree in chemistry is from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (a.k.a., Virginia Tech). His Juris Doctorate is from George Mason University School of Law, where he was on the National Moot Court team, and later served as the Managing Justice of the Moot Court Board. Mr. Dietrich has been licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia since 1989. He also served as a certified mediator in Virginia from 1998 through June of 2000, and as a mentor mediator in the DON until January of 2009. He graduated in 2002 from the Federal Executive Institute. He has taught seminars in conflict management, negotiation, mediation advocacy, mediator ethics, Federal ADR confidentiality law, and writing settlement agreements.

Mr. Dietrich is a vice-chair (and former co-chair) of the ADR Committee for the American Bar Association's Section on Public Contract Law. He also is the current chair of the Contracts and Procurement Section of the Interagency ADR Working Group (IADRWG). He served as chair of the IADRWG Steering Committee, co-chair of the IADRWG Ethics Committee, and as a member of the Board of Governors of the Board of Contract Appeals Bar Association. He is an Eagle Scout.